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ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
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CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED RAIL AUTHORITY

July 22, 2005

Dear Stakeholder:

The California High-Speed Rail Authority's August 3rd public Board Meeting will be held in Orange at the Orange County Transportation Authority building, located at 600 South Main Street – Room 154. **Please note the meeting is scheduled to begin at 1:30 pm.**

On July 11th the 2005/2006 State Budget was signed by Governor Schwarzenegger. This years State budget includes the following program funds for the Authority: \$1.7 million for the preparation of the "next tier" program Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) for the Northern Mountain Crossing, \$500,000 for the defense of the statewide program EIR/EIS, and a contingent \$500,000 for the preparation of an updated Financing Plan.

In February 2004 the Authority and the Federal Railroad Administration released the draft statewide program EIR/EIS, which was followed by a seven month public review and comment process. Since the close of the public comment period, in August 2004, the Authority has been preparing responses to the comments received. At the August 3rd public board meeting Authority staff will be presenting an overview of the changes made to the draft program EIR/EIS as well as providing a proposed schedule for the publication and distribution of the final EIR/EIS. Staff will provide a suggested schedule and procedures for the consideration and certification of the Final EIR/EIS. Authority staff will also discuss the schedule for the "next tier" program EIR/EIS for the Northern Mountain Crossing.

Additionally, at the August 3rd meeting the Authority staff will be presenting to the board the final Implementation Plan for approval and public release. This meeting also includes the election of officers as well as a presentation from the Mayor of Anaheim, Curt Pringle.

For additional information on the program EIR/EIS and the Implementation Plan visit the Authority's website at www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov.

I look forward to seeing you in Orange at our Board Meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M Morshed".

Mehdi Morshed, Executive Director